

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road

Nashville, TN 37205

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MBA Continues to Ride Technological Wave

by Jason Hiatt

Where does MBA want to go today?

Or tomorrow?...Yes, it's an overused cliché, but it seemed catchy enough for this article. Hopefully, it will give you a general idea of our technology position today and where we are heading. Please keep in mind that I haven't written a newspaper article since the 9th grade. I hope this article does not sound like I should still be there. Lastly, I was asked to write in easy to understand terms. So, here goes my best shot at a low-tech, high-tech article.

The best place to start is now. It is actually an interesting concept to consider the history and tradition of MBA and its campus experiencing the technology surge of the 1990's. MBA currently boasts a computer lab in the Wilson Library complete with 29 computers for student and faculty use. Both Apple Macintosh and IBM compatible computers are available. The IBM compatibles have 166MHz Pentium processors with MMX technology, 32 MB of RAM, and 1.7 GB hard disk drives. In other words, I mean the computers are current by today's technology and more than capable of running the majority of software available. This lab is open the entire day for student use. We also have a computer equipped classroom that contains 16 IBM compatible Pentium PCs. The classroom is utilized for classes only. The main library is equipped

with Pentium computers on the library floor. The library also has the entire catalog on-line. MBA is now on the Internet or World Wide Web at www.montgomerybell.com. This server not only allows MBA to be seen by the world but allows students and faculty to surf the net from most computers on campus. This server provides access to the wealth of information on the Internet. For example, the library now has access to a comprehensive Encyclopedia Britannica site. The "Student Center" section of the MBA web site offers useful links to web sites for virtually every subject taught at MBA. We are currently working on plans to complete the campus network. A network is a grouping of computers to allow for sharing of files, applications, and printers. This network will also allow for easier administration of the computers around campus. As of now, we have four buildings networked together. Ball, Massey, Wilson, and the Currey Athletic Center are all connected by fiber-optic cable. What good is that? I'm glad I asked. Aside from the benefits already listed, it will allow for Internet connectivity from any building on campus.

Where do we go from here? The best answer is up. We are going to continue to build a solid infrastructure (base) for the growing network at MBA. This will include connecting Carter, Davis, Wallace, and the Speech/Debate Center. We will then provide Internet

connections in every classroom. Moving classes into the computer classroom or lab will no longer be necessary since the teachers will then be able to demonstrate on-line activities in class. Interactive presentations and expanded offerings in computer programming and applications will be some of the positive results of this growth. As always, we will continue to research the latest software to provide the best tools available. Unfortunately, this growth also requires that we establish some rules to govern the use of this technology, especially with regard to the Internet. I realize that everybody will not agree. Additionally, I do understand that not everyone has Internet access from home and if they do it is not even close to the speed on campus. Just please remember that MBA has and

continues on page 2



Mr. Jason Hiatt

Mr. Hiatt joined the MBA community earlier this year as administrator of technology, replacing Dr. Hedgpeth. He is a graduate of Dickson County High School and Tennessee Tech.

Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

MBA Active in the Community

by Stephen Was

The Service Club has been hard at work yet again this year. Thanks in part to the dedication of Jesse Eaves, the Club president, and the participation of students from all grades in the High School, the Service Club has successfully completed numerous projects, and more are in the planning.

The itinerary of the Service Club ranges from weekly projects to one time events. For example, Service Club participants have been going to the Belcourt Nursing Home every other Tuesday night to visit with and entertain senior citizens who would not otherwise have company. There have also been projects in conjunction with Second Harvest Food Bank involving collecting and sorting canned food items. Other highlights from the semester include working at the Sam Levy Homes to clean up the arson-ravaged Dollar General store, and working at the Our Kids center for abused children. Last fall, members of the Service Club teamed up with a local

church to build two houses in Franklin, Tennessee, as part of Habitat for Humanity.

Currently, the Service Club officers are hard at work planning two major Spring projects. The Club recently applied for and received a financial grant from the Vanderbilt University chapter of the Omicron Delta Kappa Society to fund the Cave Springs Home project. The Cave Springs Home is a small, isolated community of mentally challenged people located between Bellevue and Pegram, Tennessee. This endeavor requires manpower from the MBA student body to refurbish and repair dilapidated buildings and to work on landscaping. Participants of the Service Club will also spend several weekends rebuilding the Dollar General Store in the Sam Levy Homes with other community volunteers. More details about these activities are soon to come, and the Service Club officers encourage all high school students to participate in these worthwhile projects.

Alpha Bakery

Cake • Bread • Cafe

Japanese Foods

615-673-8168

7120 Highway 70 South - Nashville, TN 37221
In front of Bellevue 8

We Want You!

by Brian Pilson

Last fall the MBA Outing Club went on four trips, the largest number in several years. Trips included mountain biking in Fairview, climbing at a rock gym, and back packing in state and national parks.

In early October several students hiked the Honey Creek Trail in Big South Park. And while the weather was perfect, our sense of direction was not. Accidentally getting on a biking trail, we ended up on the high-way more than two miles off course. A ranger, who was giving citations to some drunk horse riders, thankfully directed us back to our trail. Finally arriving at the campsite two hours later than expected, a fire was made under a setting sun. Basking near the campfire, students passed stories of former and current girlfriends. The group was accompanied by Mr. Fletcher's dog Madison, who unfortunately endured several kicks to her nose as she stepped into a hiker's path. By the end of the trip, we all felt a bit tired, but ready to take on another grueling week of studies at MBA.

As the spring semester begins, the Outing Club usually becomes as popular as the Chess Club and the Right Team; and, the last time I checked, we had neither organization. The sobering truth is that members become far and few between as students can't make time for an Outing trip because of sports or

social events like area school proms.

Some potential members might get an eerie feeling when they are told they can have fun with a teacher, at least without shaming him or her. Mr. Fletcher, whose voice echoes at near shouting levels in the classroom, becomes stoic and self-reflective on a trip. Acting more like a friend than a teacher, he prefers to be called Fletch. Anyone with a trip idea is well received, and Mr. Fletcher is glad to plan a trip to fit your schedule. Leadership is also handed to the group, as he believes it should be the students who look at the maps and trail guides; hence, the reason that we got lost.

In year's past, spring semester has been a disaster, as members are hard to find. Still the club has high hopes of getting students into the wilderness this year and plans to offer several trips this spring involving: fly-fishing with an experienced guide; rock climbing at Foster Falls, of the best climbing-ready state parks in the Southeast; and a possible paddling trip in late April or May. These are some of the most interesting trips the club has offered in years, but without the support of the student body, these trips will not be run. So I hope you'll sign up; you can come alone or come with a group of friends, but come prepared to have a great time.

Technology *continued from front page*

continues to place an enormous priority in equipping you with the best tools available for your education. Keep that in mind and you won't have a problem. Enough of that. I really hope to have a positive experience with everyone. The bottom line on the future of technology at MBA is that we are building and planning for tomorrow today and it is going to be a great ride. I'm excited to be here, and to be able to help play a part.

The Computer War Against Freedom

It seems that ever since MBA has been blessed with the dawning of the computer and Internet age, new restrictions and regulations are being incessantly created and enforced to inhibit our computer usage. This began last year with the removal of games, America Online, and a variety of other programs. These removals are understandable, because it is understood that computers should be used primarily for productive ends.

However, it seems that as of late, totalitarianism has sunk its teeth into the computer lab. Mr. Hiett has recently assumed the position to execute regulations on the lab. Future computer restrictions include the abolition of access to Hotmail and all electronic mail services with the exceptions of MBA's own. Is this what we pay to go to MBA for? Aren't we blessed to have such wonderful, high-tech computer facilities? The best part is that the second that we sit down at a computer, Big Brother is beating down our necks, watching every last single solitary move we make. Heaven forbid that someone might come in and try to use Hotmail for thirty seconds! Oh, what a tremendous crime!

Also, just recently, the administration has eliminated the ability to send email to someone else in the computer lab, even if it is school-related. And moreover, pretty soon

MBA is going to force every student who wants to use a computer (even if it's just one day out of the entire school year) to have our parents sign a form and then force us to sign up and register for our own MBA email address. These restrictions seem to grow more ludicrous with every week. What will be next? Maybe they'll abolish the use of search engines, maybe they'll eliminate access to websites that they deem useless.

So what is the use of Mr. Gioia's and Mr. Hiett's restricting our computer usage? Nothing. This is an effort to allow the administration to consolidate its power and to abolish the student body's liberties. They care only about keeping the student body orderly and disciplined, and not about students' freedom. Even though people have abused computer usage in the past (though this doesn't occur often and infractions have been minor), totalitarian actions that eradicate the students' freedoms are completely unnecessary. People will always violate certain rules, no matter how many restrictions are put on them; the tighter imperialism clenches its fist, the more people will struggle to escape from its grasp. What's the use of having a computer lab if one can hardly do anything if one can hardly do anything without having the constant fear of punishment?

No Fascists Here.

by A.J. Byrd

I've participated in MBA's introduction to the information age almost since the beginning. And having read "The Computer War Against Freedom," I felt compelled to defend some of the school's computer policies. Now, I don't like being restricted on the Internet any more than anyone else. I don't advocate fascism. However, fascism is not what the school is practicing here. MBA isn't out to eliminate the liberties of the student body, just to preserve a reasonable degree of sanity and legality in the students' use of the Internet.

I think the Hotmail issue is perhaps the major sticking point in the computer lab. With the banning of the use of Microsoft's Hotmail in the lab, students who use Hotmail accounts have risen up. Admittedly, the abolition of Hotmail use is an annoying restriction to many students here. But it is a necessary one. The reason behind banning Hotmail is that Hotmail provides easy access to anonymous email - the recipient of mail from Hotmail does not necessarily know who is sending them a message. The major threat posed by this is hate mail. Think that hate mail would never be sent from MBA? Think again: it's already happened. One major incident occurred when someone pirated a friend of mine's email account to send hate mail to the system administrator at Harpeth Hall, another friend of mine. The school

has decided that rather than risk other such incidents, anonymous mail at the school must be cut off.

As for the fear that the school will cut off access to "useless" websites, that is completely groundless. One of the school's priorities from the beginning was to avoid the use of Net Nanny, or SurfWatch, or other such restrictive programs. MBA has not, and has no plans to (as far as I know), cut off access to any websites.

I don't understand this fear of signing up for usernames and passwords, either. It's not as if doing this compromises our moral sensibilities. In fact, it augments them: the point of these is to see, if a computer registers a download from a porn site, who was on that computer at the time of the download. Despite simple human pride, porn still runs rampant on campus. Some people apparently need better things to do with their time. Usernames and passwords just eliminate these losers' access to porn - that's all.

The school's technological policies aren't fascist or Big-Brother-esque. They simply keep in check the students with less morals and more time on their hands than they need. If their misdeeds affect the rest of us, then perhaps we need to crack down on porn and hate mail directly as a student body, and not rely on the administration to do it for us.

News Briefs

Scholarship Finalists

Congratulations to Preston Bottomy and Grant Dickson, who have been named finalists for the Jefferson Scholarship to the University of Virginia and the Morehead Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, respectively. Also, this year's nine National Merit Semifinalists have all been declared Finalists: A.J. Byrd, Dave Alexander, Preston Bottomy, Andy Camarata, Joey Grace, Jason Dimopolos, Houston Howell, Nathan Sabel, and John B. Thomison.

MBA's Future - Displayed in Miniature

If you have not visited the Patrick Wilson Library recently, you are missing out on an awe-inspiring sight - the model of what MBA will look like in the future. The most noticeable changes as shown by the model are the new science building, to be built in front of the library, and an addition to Massey Hall, to be built on the west side of the front lawn.

Cum Laude Inductions

Cum Laude inductions were recently held during assembly. Inducted into MBA's academic honor society were seniors A.J. Byrd, Clay Callison, David Gilbert, Glenn Kantz, Nathan Sabel, Bryan Sturtevant, John B. Thomison, and Cameron Weil, as well as juniors Stuart Burkhalter, Daniel Estes, Hanlin Qian, Robbie Quinn, Mike Ritzer, Brandon Schechter, Noah Scott, and Jonathan Tam. Also inducted were faculty members Dr. John Barrow and Dr. Bob Clark.

Simon Grace Talks at Assembly

The Bell Ringer staff would like to thank Mr. Simon Grace, champion speed-walker, wild animal tamer, disciplinarian extraordinaire (Blake knows about that), and warm-up suit wearer, for giving the student body something to talk about at lunch that Monday. That's it.

Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

Slick Willy's

CAR OF THE MONTH

Owner: Garrett Davis

Pseudonyms: The Prospector, The Child-Molester, The Shag Mobile, The Kidnap Mobile

Color: Hazy Blue

Age: 15 yrs. old

Number of Owners: 2

Speed: 82 mph going down hill. 85 mph speedometer

Number of Times Pulled Over: 1, by a cop in Kentucky that said I was going over 87!

Number of Wrecks: 2 by mom. Zero by Garrett (scratched Hunter H's car and hit a shopping cart at H.G. Hills.

The Good: It's big, sits a lot of people, sleeps a lot of people.

The Bad: It's dirty, a mess, bad AC, doesn't go that fast, don't need keys to start it and it could be stolen easily. Also mistaken for a kidnapper.

Ranking of 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest:

Acceleration: 0-20 in 4 seconds. 3.

Mack-ability: Among children it's tops. It can sleep a lot of people too! 6.

Stereo: JVC cassette player, all original factory (digital) 6.

Back Seat Sleep-ability: He has three big rents to choose from but a max of eight sleeping people. 8.

Ability to Escape Pursuers: Very bad. Doesn't go too fast and rolls easily. 2.

Off Road: Real Good. Muddin' plenty with no problems. It's so heavy it has traction. 7.

Trunk Space: No trunk. 0.

History: When I was going down Richland Rd. last year, there is a big hill and at the bottom there is a big bump. When I hit the bump going 50mph, I got air. But when I landed I lost both front hubcaps. When I looked for them, I was verbally assaulted by the people whose yards the hubcaps landed in. 8.

Overall, I give it a 5, but every car I interview deserves a 10!



FACULTY CAR OF THE MONTH



YOUNG & RUBICAM
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

A Farewell to Seinfeld

by Mike Ritzer

Sometime this spring Jerry, Elaine, George, Kramer and the rest of the Seinfeld clan will say their final good-byes. Never again will these characters bring as the most treasured gift of all—laughter. Friday mornings will no longer contain conversations about how attractive Jerry's new girlfriend is, how hysterically insane

Kramer's protests are, how ridiculous Elaine and Patty's relationship is, or how funny last night's show was in general. Only memories of the show forty percent of MBA students declared their favorite show on television will be left. Personally, I regret that I will no longer be able to know for sure that there will be at least one funny show on each week. Many shows are funny periodically, but Seinfeld is the only show that makes me laugh every time I watch, even when a certain episode is not one of the show's better ones. I ask you who does not laugh or at least smile every time Kramer barges into Jerry's apartment? Only eleven out of over two hundred MBA students and faculty surveyed said they do not. I know the show has to end eventually and end brilliantly, but I will miss it and I wanted to know the rest of MBA felt about the matter. I also wanted to let everyone

Not only does nearly all the school watch the show but also thirty-seven percent say Seinfeld is their favorite show on all on television.

The number of episodes remaining can be counted with one's fingers.

remember their favorite moments of the show's existence. About two hundred and twenty people at MBA participated in my poll and I would like to thank each one of you for taking the time.

I first asked, "How often do you watch Seinfeld?" Only five percent of people polled never watch the show and only two people claim they do not watch because the show is not funny to them. Ninety-five percent watch the show at least a few times a year and seventy-eight percent watch weekly. Let's just say that I have a lot of fellow Seinfeld watchers in this school. Not only does nearly all the school watch the show but also thirty-seven percent say Seinfeld is their favorite show on all of television. As for

favorite characters, the most popular was Kramer with over one half of the votes. George was a distant second with twenty percent of the votes while Jerry, Elaine, Patty, and Newman equally split the rest of the votes. MBA's favorite show or episode was the soup Nazi episode receiving about one fifth of the votes. Marine biologist/Kramer's golf balls in

ocean episode came in second with almost one seventh of the votes. The rest of the episodes split the remaining votes evenly. I would also like to give special recognition to certain episodes not on the poll: The man hands episode, the trapped in the parking lot episode, the more episode, and the Mulva episode. The favorite saying question received much the same results. "No soup for you!" got about one fifth of the votes. "Yadda, yadda, yadda," "But are you still master of your own domain?" "The Ukraine is not weak!" "Don't give me the it's not you it's me routine," and "Mulva!" were other favorites

splitting the majority of the rest of the votes. Others receiving votes, but not on the survey, were "I'm the wiz," "That's my move," "Not that there's anything wrong with that," and "Hello!" The results of the favorite show and favorite saying questions just prove there are too many good Seinfeld moments to choose from. This perennial comedy separates the show from other comedies. The only show that may be able to fulfill Seinfeld's role is South Park, but South Park has not yet had enough shows to prove it can produce show after a show for season after season. Many

students obviously feel that loss of Seinfeld would create a void since four-fifths doesn't want it to end. And still many of those who stated that it should and either commented that too much air time would take away the show's humor or that all good things have to end. When forced to face the reality that the show must end, about one-third of students said the show should end with all the characters dying in one of Kramer's schemes and another one third

said there should be a all out war between the Seinfelds and Costanzas. Other suggestions included the wiz conquering all, the characters ending up in jail, certain homo- and hetero- sexual relationships between characters, suicide, the Thelma and Louise ending, and an episode of the characters reminiscing of their earlier years. The number of episodes remaining can be counted with one's fingers. Maybe if I just yell, "Serenity Now!" all will be better. Or maybe the networks will come up with a rival show (yea right!). Or maybe I should dig a hole in the park and sit in it. But the best solution of all would be for Jerry to come on NBC after the last episode and say, "Just kidding. This isn't the last show." It could happen.



MBA Theatre presents

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

April 23-26 in the Paschall Theatre

Holiday Movie Reviews

by Ben Thompson

Amistad

Directed by some guy named Steven Spielberg, (*E.T.*, *Jaws*, *Schindler's List*, *Jurassic Park*, *Indiana Jones* ...) *Amistad* is the best of the holiday season, not just because it deals with political issues, but also because the performances are so great. Matthew McConaughey once again plays a young white lawyer defending black people (*A Time to Kill*), but he does a much better job of acting in *Amistad*. Djimon Hounsou, in his first film, shows promising skill in portraying the accused Cinque. Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins, as John Quincy Adams, plays his second U.S. president (*Nixon*). Hopkins delivers the best performance of the cast, as every scene he appears in is spectacular. I think that *Amistad* is the best movie Spielberg has ever done, and trust me, that's saying a lot.

Titanic

This is the most risky and the most anticipated movie in a long time, and for the most part, it is worth the three hours it takes to sit through it. By the time the ship hits the iceberg, however, you may feel a little sore. The sinking of the *Titanic* is spectacular. The first hour and a half of the movie are a little dull, though not unbearable. Like *Amistad*, *Titanic* features some good performances by its leading actors. Leonardo DiCaprio is good as Jack Dawson, the lower class urchin who falls for the beautiful Rose, played by Kate Winslet. *Titanic* also features really, really bad acting. Billy Zane is ridiculous as Rose's villainous fiancé, and Kathy Bates plays a hillbilly aristocrat. Overall, *Titanic*'s plot drags on repetitively for half the movie, then picks up once the big boat begins to sink.

Tomorrow Never Dies

First of all, I love James Bond movies. Second of all, I am addicted to the Goldeneye video game. Therefore, *Tomorrow Never Dies* was awesome! Pierce Brosnan isn't as good as Sean Connery, we all know that. But he fits the part well. This Bond flick has plenty of gadgets, (the missile-shooting, cellular phone driven BMW) plenty of good-looking women, and lots of guns and explosions and violence and all that good stuff. My favorite scene is when Bond and the Chinese girl jump off the building, grab a motorcycle, and skid over and under a helicopter.

On Video

The Game

This thriller from the director of *Seven* came out in September, but you can always get it on video. It keeps you guessing all the way through, and Michael Douglas is better than I've ever seen him. *The Game* is the most clever thriller available, and I recommend renting it if you've got nothing to do.

Swimming

by David Landman

The Montgomery

Bell Academy swim team ended the dual meet season with a record of six wins and three losses, losing



only to the best and second best state teams, as well as one Kentucky team. After the dual meet season, MBA's swim team was looking forward to the region meet, along with Coach Rundberg, who had his mind set on a couple of region awards.

When the meet rolled around, MBA came out in full force, taking first place and beating every other team by about a hundred points. At the same time, MBA set four new region meet records, not to mention the second-year MBA diving team that took first and third individual places in the diving region. Next, the swim team took on the state and ended up third, behind Baylor and McCallie. Jonathan Baird took second in the 100 Breaststroke, while Chris Kellan took first in the 100 Backstroke. Other strong performances came from Adrian Cameron and Peter Chen.

The MBA swim team does not lose any swimmers that scored in this year's region meet, making next year look like one of MBA's strongest years ever. This MBA team has slowly but steadily worked to become a dominant force in the state, and the '98-'99 season looks to be one of the best chances for the team to make a run for the state title. Under the direction of Coach Rundberg and Coach Setters, and with a rising group of talented swimmers, the MBA swim team looks to be a top choice for next year.

Micael-Renee

LIFESTYLE PORTRAITURE
salutes



Joey Crace

Wrestling Finishes Second in State

by Dave Alexander

The MBA Wrestling Team is on their way to having a classic 97-98 Athletic Team: second only to Ryan. The Big Red has participated in two tournaments this year. At McCallie, returning stars and captains, Jonathan Williams and Johnny Rich, placed 4th and 1st respectively, but Father Ryan won the tournament.

After McCallie, Coach Frank Simpson instituted a grueling two weeks of Christmas practices combined with two weeks of Christmas practices combined with a weights program in order to prepare the Cardinal for Father Ryan Invitational.

At the Ryan Tournament immediately following the Christmas break, MBA got a second chance at the Irish, a team coached by Pat Simpson, Coach Frank Simpson's brother. The team improved greatly with four placers Jonathan Williams (6th), Dave Alexander (5th), Johnny Rich (2nd), and Phillip Simpson (1st) and team finish of 5th of 32 teams. The team finished behind only two teams from Tennessee, though, Clarksville High School and Father Ryan.

In dual meets, the Big Red compiled an 18-4 regular season record losing to Clarksville High School, Grissom (an Alabama team), and Ryan. Ryan defeated MBA 46-21, so when the Region championship rolled around, expectations of defeating the Irish were low. After handily defeating the Brentwood Academy Eagles (for a second time), the Big Red faced the mighty Irish, a team undefeated in Tennessee dual meets. The match proved to shock the arrogant Irish. With only three weight classes of the fourteen left to go, the scoreboard read 22-21 MBA. Unfortunately, the final weight classes of the match ended with a few of Ryan's best wrestlers, and the match was lost 38-22. But, in the end, the Regional Runner-Up plaque was presented to the Big Red, giving them an invitation to participate at the State Dual meet at Bradley County.

In Bradley County, the Big Red handily defeated Harding Academy and Notre Dame. The team would face

second-ranked Baylor to see who would square off against Father Ryan in the finals. The Big Red took an early lead against Baylor with wins by Dave Alexander, Phillip Simpson, Kempton Presley, and Dave Farrell. Tate Rich gave the Cardinal their last lead in the match 18-17 with an incredible overtime pin. In the end, the Big Red lost 33-21 to

...the Big Red wrestlers had the most successful season ever in MBA history.

the Baylor School. In the consolation, the disappointed Cardinal and Silver embarrassed Christain Brothers 48-18 with pins by Phillip Simpson, Jonathan Williams, Dave Farrell, and Chris Camp to claim the third place Division II trophy. The final dual meet record was 22-5.

In the State Individual Tournament the following week, the team was on a mission. Ranked eighth in the polls after the State Duals, the team wanted to earn respect. Respect was won. The team placed thirteen out of fourteen wrestlers and had five wrestlers

in the finals. The number of MBA placers was more than any other team at the tournament. Logan Hughes (6th), Harwood Curry (5th), David Wilson (5th), Chris Camp (5th), Michael Augustine (5th), Kempton Presley (4th), Matt Woolsey (3rd), and Tate Rich (3rd) all placed through consolation. Phillip Simpson, Jonathan Williams, Dave Alexander, Johnny Rich, and Dave Farrell all reached the finals. The Big Red finished with two champions, Phillip Simpson and Johnny Rich. The other finalists were defeated, but the team finished only 16.5 points behind Ryan. The team also defeated the second ranked Baylor School by sixteen points to earn the team respect and the State Tournament second place plaque.

Through hard work and determination, the Big Red Wrestlers had the most successful season ever in MBA history. Losing only four starters, David Wilson, Dave Alexander, Harwood Curry, and Johnny Rich, the team should be even stronger next year. The Cardinal will return.

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CONGRATULATIONS BIG RED BASKETBALL!!!



STATE
CHAMPIONS

The People of Riflery

by Andrew Thomison

Here follows a simple summary of some of the amazing and interesting people one can meet on the fast track to Olympic success as a rifle shooter.

The MBA Team

Andrew Esterday: Team Captain. Esterday acts as the voice of authority when the coach is away by yelling out "Hey, everyone be quiet!" at us every so often. Overall he generally stays out of the rest of the team's conversations except to threaten us with death whenever we act up. He is a model to us all.

Andy Gaither: Andy is, by far, the funniest and most obnoxious person on this earth. He spends most of his time trying to make Jared shoot badly and aggravating the rest of the world. Among his finer accomplishments are bringing the shooter next to him to tears during a match in Cookeville, and shooting the lunchroom ceiling in eighth grade.

Jared Lostetter: Shooting nerd! Jared spends most of practice figuring out ways to shoot better, laughing at Andy until his face turns purple, and yelling at himself because he shoots a nine out of ten. If that's not enough, he also wears turquoise shooting pants with a purple crotch. Jared takes the most abuse of anyone on the team and we should respect him for that. However, we don't.

Brandon Gruber: Pretty cool for a freshman. Good shooter. That's about it, I think.

Clay Collier: Another freshman. I don't think that Clay has said anything since the first day of practice when Andy was openly hostile to him. He's actually a decent shooter, but he's spilled his pellets a few too many times.

Patten Fuqua: There really isn't much to say about Patten except that he has a few eccentricities: writing FREEBIRD on his gun case in tape, saying *really* strange stuff, and laughing at almost anything. If anyone ever needs to say something random, we get Patten.

Brandon Scheeter: Brandon is the team's heavy hitter. He's the only one on the team who doesn't have a leather jacket, because we haven't yet found a cow hide big enough. Brandon is known to poke fun at government institutions and to root out all the fascists working at McDonald's.

Andrew Thomison: The best shooter on the planet. Frankly, he's the most amazing person I know. He's intelligent, witty, an excellent rifleman, and has a very clear and objective way of looking at things. He's very modest, too.

Other people of the shooting world

Coach Leo Lujan: The Coach is a very interesting old person. Coaching rifle for so many years and being constantly aggravated

by us has burned away all his hair. We know it's time for him to stop doing pushups when the top of his head turns red. He also likes to yell at people who bang on the window during practice. On the darker side, Coach is addicted to McDonald's senior coffee, and gets in a bad mood if he doesn't have his hourly caffeine fix.

The Dove Sisters: More shooting nerds. Imagine evil in the form of two fanatical girls who happen to be sisters. Well, there you have Crystal and Kelli Dove. The goal of all MBA rifle shooters is to pound these girls into dust. The easiest method would probably be a dosing with holy water or a wooden stake through the heart, but so far, we've just tried to beat them in shooting. I guess that the main reason we hate them so much is that they're two girls from Georgia who are better shooters than we are. Besides, one of them is named Crystal, which is reason enough right there.

Maranda Stockton: The perpetual fifteen year old.

"Maranda, you're not fifteen again this year, are you?"

"Yes I am, and I've got the driver's licence to prove it."

This girl has been fifteen for as long as anyone can remember. We are all much better shooters than she is now, but it's still amusing to keep going back to Tennessee Tech to see if she's still the same age as she was last year.

Lanny Bansham: We've never actually met this guy, but we hear enough about him to feel like he's our friend. Lanny was a world champion shooter about a million years ago, but once his hair started turning gray and falling out, he became a motivational speaker. Now he does seminars on the power of positive thinking. By listening to his book-on-tape, we've learned some very useful things, such as: Always phrase things positively. A positive image is much better than a negative one. Example: Don't say, "Coach, we just left Jared at the gas station." Instead, say "Coach, looks like we'll only be needing four rooms tonight."

Coach Lee Deneke: Coach Deneke is probably one of the coolest adults I know. He's a lawyer, but makes up for it by cracking down on drug lords as part of his job. When he's not breaking drug rings, he spends his time thinking ways to crack down on the evil Harpeth Hall coach. Plus, he helps us make fun of Jared, which is a really cool thing for an adult to do.

Well, that about sums it up for the exciting people one can meet by joining the rifle team. There are many others who go unmentioned, but there is neither the time, nor the space, nor the inclination, to include them.

HAVE A GOOD SPRING BREAK!